

The common view that at first the retinal vessels constitute merely a system of the vitreous vessels, he disproves by the fact that the two series are always separated from one another by the limitans interna. Beyond the mere division of the vitreous into apparent lamellæ along these vascular systems, he distinctly denies the existence of any demonstrable structural elements that might produce stratification.

He is very emphatic in his opinion that the large, pale, round cells with nuclei and processes in the optic nerve are frequently confounded with the branched and spindle shaped mesoblastic cells that form the sheath of the nerve, and that the former must be considered as the epiblastic cells of the optic nerve.

It seems a pity that whilst discussing the points of appearance of the orbicularis muscle in the middle structure of the palpebral mesoderm, he did not endeavor to trace its origin, which according to some is in the blastema of the muscular segments found at the upper part of the embryonic neck. It would also have been interesting and made the study more complete, if the origin and development of the extrinsic or so-called orbital muscles of the eyeball from the cephalic myotomes had been outlined. Especially could this have been logically done, as he properly tells us (a statement with which most practical embryologists are in accord) that he has made use of the findings in comparative anatomy: so here, as is well known, the lower vertebrates have their muscle-plates better developed, the results of Miss Platt's studies upon the cephalic myotomes of the *Acanthias vulgaris* might have been advantageously added.

Judged both from a practical and a scientific standpoint, the work—as it truly is, as it represents much conscientious labor—can be commended not only as a safe guide and a trustworthy teacher to the uninformed student, but offers itself as a delightful companion for careful perusal by the best informed and most profound embryologist. Bold at times in its denials, yet never without reason; offering sound judgment and best of common sense in the least certain of its guessings; and never too dogmatic in individual opinion nor forgetful of others' work in the same direction: too much praise cannot be given to the author for an honest endeavor to advance and popularize the more certain and the more accurate knowledge of the embryology of the eye.

The work is worthy of its entire purpose and should have many readers.
C. A. O.

A SYSTEM OF GENITO-URINARY DISEASES, SYPHILOLOGY, AND DERMATOLOGY. Edited by PRINCE A. MORROW, A.M., M.D. Volume II. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1894.

THIS work is fully abreast of the times, embracing all the recent advances made in this department of medicine, and gives the experience of some of the best specialists.

Dr. James Nevins Hyde contributes a valuable treatise on the "History, Geographical Distribution, Evolution, and General Pathological Anatomy of Syphilis." It is very readable and interesting; full of useful information, told in a concise and entertaining manner.

In the article on the "Etiology of Syphilis," Dr. Fordyce has ably

set forth all that is known relating to the theory of the bacterial origin of the disease, as well as of the action of toxins upon the tissues of the body and the part played by the pyogenic microbes in causing well-known pathological changes so frequently found in connection with venereal disorders.

The whole is a valuable *résumé* of the subject. Whilst the author is unable to prove that syphilis is due to a specific micro-organism, he leaves in the mind of the reader but little doubt of the truth of this postulate, and shows that many manifestations of this affection can only be explained on this hypothesis. It is singular that whilst considering the bacteriological aspect of this disease nothing is said about the antagonism which seems to exist between the streptococcus of erysipelas and syphilis; this subject receives passing notice in another portion of the work.

One of the most important, practical, and valuable chapters to the general practitioner is that contributed by Dr. Prince A. Morrow on "Syphiloderma." Symptomology, varieties in type, unusual modes of evolution, morbid anatomy, and classification are taken up in turn and exhaustively treated. The wisdom of choosing Cazenave's classification of the syphilides, dividing the eruptions into the erythematous, papular, pustular, and tubercular forms, to which has been added a fifth division relating to anomalies in pigmentation and hemorrhagic effusions, becomes at once apparent on reading the article. The adoption of this arrangement renders the subject extremely simple and easy to understand. The general practitioner will be greatly aided by following this classification and will readily assign the eruption to the class to which it belongs.

The advantage of the arrangement of Dr. Morrow over those proposed by Hardy, Mauriac, Zeissl, Leloir, Willan, and others is too apparent to need more than a passing notice.

The article is well and instructively illustrated. Dr. Morrow is to be congratulated upon the successful production of Plates Nos. 3, 4, 6, and 12 by means of photography and lithography, "being the first time," as stated in the preface, "that this method has been applied to medical subjects."

This chapter is followed by valuable contributions by many of the best-known authors on subjects embracing special portions and organs of the body. It is needless to say that they are well written, are full of information, and represent the views of the leading syphilographers.

The very important section on the "Treatment of Syphilis" is written by Dr. J. William White. The article is full and complete.

The routine method of treatment advised is what is known as the "systematic course," which is the uninterrupted administration of mercury for the space of two years; first giving the remedy *per orem* for three months, then making use of mercurial inunctions for two weeks, returning to the internal use of the drug, and thus alternating until the period named has expired. After this the patient is to be placed upon the use of iodide of potassium. In very mild cases we have had perfect cures follow the interrupted method. The systematic course of treatment we have always reserved for more severe cases, believing that the larger the amount of the poison received into the system the more active should be our efforts to combat it.

A full review of the literature of the hypodermatic method of medication is given. Dr. White agrees with most English and American

authorities in condemning this form of treatment as a routine method of practice. The great objection urged against it is that relapses occur in a large percentage of patients thus treated, an adoption of some other method being necessary for the permanent cure of the disease. Dr. White has placed the literature of the subject fully and fairly before his readers. The conditions under which he recommends the employment of the hypodermatic medication may be summarized as follows:

"(a) Those cases in which other methods of treatment have been tried and failed. (b) Those cases in which, owing to idiosyncrasy or intercurrent disease of the skin, the digestive tract cannot be used for the introduction of mercury. (c) Those cases in which, owing to grave and advancing lesions, rapid mercurialization is absolutely necessary. (d) Those cases in which obstinate local lesions can be most directly reached by this plan. (e) Possibly those cases in which early differentiation between syphilis and malignant disease, or tubercular ulceration, is extremely important."

The hypodermatic method, in suitable cases, is one of the strongest weapons that the physician possesses wherewith to fight this disease; it finds its uses in those instances in which a rapid impression is needed, as, for example, when the eruption appears on the face; in married men; or when some vital structure is involved. The results are almost magical. It may likewise be employed as a substitute for inunctions when employing the systematic method of treatment, in relapsing or malignant syphilis, or in those obstinate cases which do not yield to other means of treatment.

We have administered many hundreds of hypodermatic injections of corrosive sublimate solution and of the gray oil; in no one instance has there been any complaint of pain. We have never seen an abscess follow their employment; it is true, however, that the gray oil will produce an induration which disappears in from two to four weeks; in two instances slight pytalism followed its use.

Dr. White earnestly calls the attention of the profession to the importance of looking after the hygienic condition of the mouth of the patient; insisting that the gums and teeth should be kept in the best possible condition; that the physician should examine the quantity and quality of the saliva; and be on the alert to observe if there exist a feeling as if the teeth were elongated, or if there be a sensation of tenderness produced when they are brought into sharp contact. These symptoms should warn the medical attendant that the limit for the use of mercury has been reached. Gripping and diarrhoea are of secondary importance.

The use of opium combined with mercury is strongly condemned, on the ground that it masks the effect of that drug and permits its accumulation in the system, producing pytalism when least expected, beside laying the patient liable to contract the opium habit. The employment of ipecac or of tartar emetic is not approved.

Then follows an excellent article by Dr. Samuel Treat Armstrong on "Syphilis in Relation to Public Health," in which the author calls attention in a forcible manner to the failure of legislation to prevent the spread of the disease. He offers some practical and available suggestions, which if adopted would doubtless be of benefit to the general public.

The concluding articles are from the pens of Dr. Edward Martin and Dr. James P. Tuttle; the first is upon the subject of "Chancroid," and the second, that of Dr. Tuttle, on "Chancroid of the Anus and Rectum."

We take exception to the views of Dr. Martin, page 883, when referring to the operation of circumcision complicating chancroids. He says: "The foreskin should be split up along the dorsum. The objection to circumcision under these circumstances depends on the fact that the wound is frequently inoculated with the chancroidal virus and will become converted into a circular chancroid."

The objection to the method recommended by Dr. Martin, and indeed advised by many writers, is that it leaves two unsightly flaps, the shape of a dog's ear, on each side of the penis. If, immediately after the removal of the prepuce the operator will douche the part with 1:1000 corrosive sublimate solution, and touch the sores with pure carbolic acid, there is but little more danger of infection from circumcision than from splitting the foreskin.

Of seventeen operations of this description performed by us in the past five months, all recovered within a few days without any trouble, with the exception of two, which were slightly infected at the lower portion of the wound. We have on several occasions had to perform a secondary operation to remove unsightly flaps remaining after splitting the foreskin.

The illustrations and print of the work could not be improved. The book is full of valuable information, embodying the latest views of well-known teachers and writers; it will no doubt meet with what it richly deserves, a cordial reception from the profession.

O. H.

HANDBOOK OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY. By EDWARD F. WILLOUGHBY, M.D. Pp. 509. London and New York: Macmillan & Co., 1893.

THIS little book is a very welcome and valuable addition to the literature of hygiene, containing, as it does, a vast deal of useful information imparted without useless verbiage and in a most pleasing style. It is in most refreshing contrast with many of the more recent works which are but deserts of words with only occasional oases of ideas.

Chapter I., on the "Health of the Man," deals first with dietetics, treats in an interesting manner of the albuminates, fats, and carbohydrates; discusses the purposes served by food, the quantity of each of the food stuffs required, and the effects of an excess or undue preponderance of one or the other of the food stuffs. The composition of the principal articles of food is given, with much relevant information of an instructive character. Under "Ale, Beer, and Stout" the statement that Bavarian beer "is the mildest, containing but 2 per cent. of alcohol," is presumably a misprint, the lowest percentage of alcohol in Bavarian beer in the table following being 3.80.

The use and abuse of alcohol is discussed somewhat briefly, but in an absolutely fair and sensible manner, quite unlike that affected by those who write on this subject with sidelong glances at the various temperance unions, whose anticipated disapproval of the real truth has been responsible for much nonsensical literature. The remarks on cooking are rich in information of a practical value.